

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7141

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMMBASSY SOFIA 1837

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3502

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, HU

SUBJ: TASS AND MTI: A CONTRAST IN REPORTING THE FORD-CARTER DEBATE

1. AN INTERESTING CONTRAST WAS SEEN IN THE OCTOBER 8
BUDAPEST DAILIES, AS THEY PUBLISHED WIRE SERVICE REPORTS
FROM WASHINGTON ON THE SECOND FORD-CARTER DEBATE.

2. HSWP DAILY NEPSZABADSAG CHOSE TO USE A TASS ITEM
WHICH READ IN PART AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE JOURNALISTS
ASKING THE QUESTIONS ESTABLISHED THAT THE EARLIER US
FOREIGN POLICY DESIGNED TO CONTAIN COMMUNISM WAS A
FAILURE AND LATELY THERE HAS BEEN A WEAKENING IN THE
AMERICAN SUPPORT OF DETENTE. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS,
PRESIDENT FORD SAID THAT THE US SHOULD NOT RETURN TO
THE COLD WAR AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THERE WILL
BE A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. CARTER ACCUSED THE US
GOVERNMENT OF HAVING CAUSED GREAT DAMAGE WITH ITS
POLICIES IN VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, CHILE, PAKISTAN AND
ANGOLA AS WELL AS WITH THE WATERGATE AND CIA SCANDALS

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UNQUOTE.

3. DAILY MAGYAR NEMZET USED THE MTI DISPATCH FILED BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ANDRAS HELTAI. IT READ IN PART AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE BROUGHT UP LITTLE NEW; THERE ARE NO SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES IN THE FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS OF FORD AND CARTER EXCEPT IN QUESTIONS OF EMPHASIS OR ORDER OF IMPORTANCE. CARTER SAID THAT DETENTE HAD BROUGHT UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES TO THE SOVIET UNION, THAT THE US HAS ACCEPTED SOVIET DOMINATION IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS NO IMPLEMENTED BASKET THREE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS. PRESIDENT FORD SAID THAT HELSINKI DOES NOT MEAN AMERICAN RECOGNITION OF SOVIET DOMINATION IN EASTERN EUROPE, THERE ARE INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN STATES IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND CSCE HAS BROUGHT THE BENEFIT OF NOTIFICATION OF MILITARY MANEUVERS. PRESIDENT FORD SAID THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LATEST EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CORRESPOND TO THE HIGHEST MORAL STANDARDS, AND HAVE AS THEIR GOAL THE PREVENTION OF A BLOODBATH AS WELL AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET-CUBAN DOMINATION UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: EACH ARTICLE CONTAINED ADDITIONAL PORTIONS COVERING VARIOUS POINTS IN THE DEBATE. THE SENTENCES QUOTED HERE HOWEVER ARE NOT AFFECTED BY THE CONTEXT OF THE REST OF THE TWO ARTICLES. THE TWO CONTRASTING REPORTS PROVIDE A GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOVIET AND HUNGARIAN NEWS SERVICES, IN TERMS OF "WHAT CAN BE SAID" BY EACH. THE MTI REPORT IS ALSO AN EXAMPLE OF THE RATHER COURAGEOUS WORK OF HELTAI, WHO WITH THE JUDICIOUS USE OF QUOTATION MARKS AROUND CERTAIN WORDS OR EXPRESSIONS IS MANAGING TO GET PRINTED IN HUNGARIAN PAPERS THINGS WHICH WERE NOT SEEN THERE BEFORE, NOT ONLY ON US POLITICS BUT ON OTHER HIGHLY SENSITIVE TOPICS LIKE THE MIDDLE EAST AND ANGOLA AS WELL.
MUDD

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